

ORIGINAL

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8 Attorneys for Defendant
9 BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE NORTH
10 AMERICAN TIRE, LLC, successor to
11 BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC.

E-filing

12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
13 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

14 SAN JOSE DIVISION

15 JAIME ABONCE

16 Plaintiffs,

17 vs.

18 BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC.; and
19 DOES 1 through 10, INCLUSIVE,

20 Defendants.

CV 08

No.

1767

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF CIVIL
ACTION FROM THE SUPERIOR
COURT OF THE STATE OF
CALIFORNIA, MONTEREY COUNTY,
UNDER 28 U.S.C. §1332 (DIVERSITY)**

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES AND CLERK OF THE COURT:

21 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendant BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE NORTH
22 AMERICAN TIRE, LLC, successor to BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC. (hereinafter
23 "Firestone"), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1332, 1441 and 1446, hereby removes this action to this
24 Court, and in support of its Notice of Removal, states as follows:
25

26 1. On October 5, 2007, Plaintiff filed this action in the Superior Court of the State of
27 California, Monterey County, styled *Jaime Abonce v. Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc., et al.*, Case No.
28 M86895. Firestone was served with the Summons and Plaintiff's Complaint on March 10, 2008.

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2. Plaintiff's Complaint includes claims for personal injury and products liability. Plaintiff claims to have been injured on October 13, 2005, in an accident involving a multi-piece vehicle rim. Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages and damages for lost wages, hospital and medical expenses, and lost earning capacity. In addition to the damages alleged in Plaintiff's Complaint, Plaintiff's counsel has provided Firestone's counsel with correspondence and medical records indicating that Plaintiff has undergone four surgeries since the accident.

3. Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company, with its principal place of business in Nashville, Tennessee. Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. was an Ohio corporation, with its principle place of business in Nashville, Tennessee. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff is a citizen of California.

4. This is a civil action over which this Court has original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1332, and is one which may be removed by Firestone to this Court under 28 U.S.C. §1441(b), in that there is complete diversity of citizenship between the parties and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

5. This Notice of Removal is timely because it is filed within thirty (30) days of the date Firestone was served with the Summons and Plaintiff's Complaint.

6. Firestone is informed and believes, after reasonable inquiry, that Firestone is the only Defendant that has been named in the action. For purposes of removal, the citizenship of the "Doe" Defendants are to be disregarded, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1441(a).

7. Attached hereto as Exhibit A are copies of all pleadings, process and orders served on Firestone.

8. Firestone shall promptly give notice of this removal to the state court in which the action was filed and to Plaintiff's counsel of record, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1446(d).

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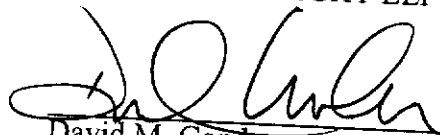
////

INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT (Local Rule 3-5(b))

9. This Notice is filed in the San Jose Division since the state court action that is removed was filed in the Superior Court for the County of Monterey.

Respectfully Submitted,

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP



David M. Gonden
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
50 California Street, 28th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111

Attorneys for Defendant
BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE NORTH
AMERICAN TIRE, LLC, successor to
BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC.

Dated: April 2, 2008

5240162_v1

Holland & Knight LLP
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CIVIL COVER SHEET

JS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Jaime Abonce

DEFENDANTS

Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.; and Does 1 through 10, Inclusive

HRL ADR

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Monterey
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)County of Residence of First Listed Defendant
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE
OF LAND INVOLVED.

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Cheryl P. Weiner
Rucka O'Boyle Lombardo & McKenna
245 West Laurel Drive
Salinas, CA 93906

Attorneys (If Known)

Charles L. Coleman, Esq.
David M. Gonden, Esq.
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
50 California St., 28th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111

E-filing

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☒ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws <input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck <input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs. <input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS - Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITIONS <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motion to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition		

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 Original Proceeding
- ☒ 2 Removed from State Court
- ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
- ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- ☐ 5 Transferred from another district (specify)
- ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation
- ☐ 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

28 U.S.C. §1441(b); Removal of Action based Diversity Jurisdiction- citizens of different states

Brief description of cause:

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: ☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION DEMAND \$ UNDER F.R.C.P. 23☐ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:
JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes ☒ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions) JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE
April 2, 2008

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

NDC-JS44

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44**Authority For Civil Cover Sheet**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

I. (a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.

(b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)

(c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".

II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.

IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.

V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

V. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section IV above, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.

VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553
Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service

VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:**(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):**

Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.; DOES 1-10

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:**(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):**

Jaime Abonce

FOR COURT USE ONLY
(SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)**FILED****OCT 05 2007**LISA M. GALDOS
CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
C. WILLIAMS DEPUTY

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form. If you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.

The name and address of the court is:

(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

Superior Court of California, County of Monterey
1200 Aguaquito Road
1200 Aguaquito Road
Monterey, CA 94390
Civil Division

CASE NUMBER:
(Número del Caso)**M 86 895**

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:

(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

Cheryl P. Weiner, SBN #170178
Rucka, O'Boyle, Lombardo, & McKenna
245 West Laurel Drive
Salinas, CA 93906

LISA M. GALDOS**C. WILLIAMS**

DATE:

(Fecha)

OCT 05 2007

Clerk, by

(Secretario)

Deputy

(Adjunto)

(For proof of service of this summons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010).)

(Para prueba de entrega de esta citación use el formulario Proof of Service of Summons, (POS-010)).

(SEAL)

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served

1. ☐ as an individual defendant
2. ☐ as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify):

3. ☒ on behalf of (specify): **Bridgestone / Firestone, Inc.**

under: ☐ CCP 416.10 (corporation)☐ CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation)☐ CCP 416.40 (association or partnership)☐ other (specify):☐ CCP 416.60 (minor)☐ CCP 416.70 (conservatee)☐ CCP 416.90 (authorized person)

4. ☒ by personal delivery on (date):

Page 1 of 1

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): Cheryl P. Weiner, SBN #170178 Neil P. Berman, SBN #246637 Rucka, O'Boyle, Lombardo, & McKenna 245 West Laurel Drive Salinas, CA 93906 TELEPHONE NO: 831-443-1051 FAX NO. (Optional): 831-443-6419 E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Jaime Abonce		PLD-PI-001 FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Monterey STREET ADDRESS: 1200 Aguajito Road MAILING ADDRESS: 1200 Aguajito Road CITY AND ZIP CODE: Monterey, CA 94390 BRANCH NAME: Civil Division PLAINTIFF: Jaime Abonce		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 10px;">FILED</div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 10px;">OCT 05 2007</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">LISA M. GALDOS CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT C. WILLIAMS DEPUTY</div>
DEFENDANT: Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DOES 1 TO 10		
COMPLAINT—Personal Injury, Property Damage, Wrongful Death <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDED (Number): Type (check all that apply): <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> MOTOR VEHICLE <input type="checkbox"/> Property Damage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (specify): Products Liability <input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful Death <input type="checkbox"/> Other Damages (specify): </div> </div>		
Jurisdiction (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> ACTION IS A LIMITED CIVIL CASE Amount demanded <input type="checkbox"/> does not exceed \$10,000 <input type="checkbox"/> exceeds \$10,000, but does not exceed \$25,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION IS AN UNLIMITED CIVIL CASE (exceeds \$25,000) <input type="checkbox"/> ACTION IS RECLASSIFIED by this amended complaint <input type="checkbox"/> from limited to unlimited <input type="checkbox"/> from unlimited to limited		CASE NUMBER: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 20px;">M 86895</div>

1. Plaintiff (name or name(s)): Jaime Abonce

1. Plaintiff (name or names): Jaime Abonce

alleges causes of action against defendant (name or names): Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.

2. This pleading, including attachments and exhibits, consists of the following number of pages: 4

3. Each plaintiff named above is a competent adult.

a. except plaintiff (name):

- (1) ☐ a corporation qualified to do business in California
 (2) ☐ an unincorporated entity (describe):
 (3) ☐ a public entity (describe):
 (4) ☐ a minor ☐ an adult
 (a) ☐ for whom a guardian or conservator of the estate or a guardian ad litem has been appointed
 (b) ☐ other (specify):
 (5) ☐ other (specify):

b. ☐ except plaintiff (name):

- (1) ☐ a corporation qualified to do business in California
 (2) ☐ an unincorporated entity (describe):
 (3) ☐ a public entity (describe):
 (4) ☐ a minor ☐ an adult
 (a) ☐ for whom a guardian or conservator of the estate or a guardian ad litem has been appointed
 (b) ☐ other (specify):
 (5) ☐ other (specify):

☐ Information about additional plaintiffs who are not competent adults is shown in Attachment 3.

SHORT TITLE: Abonce v. Bridgestone/Firestone Inc.

PLD-PI-001

CASE NUMBER:

4. ☐ Plaintiff (name): Jaime Abonce
is doing business under the fictitious name (specify):
and has complied with the fictitious business name laws.
5. Each defendant named above is a natural person
- a. ☒ except defendant (name): Bridgestone/Firestone Inc.
- (1) ☒ a business organization, form unknown
(2) ☐ a corporation
(3) ☐ an unincorporated entity (describe):
(4) ☐ a public entity (describe):
(5) ☐ other (specify):
- c. ☐ except defendant (name):
- (1) ☐ a business organization, form unknown
(2) ☐ a corporation
(3) ☐ an unincorporated entity (describe):
(4) ☐ a public entity (describe):
(5) ☐ other (specify):
- b. ☐ except defendant (name):
- (1) ☐ a business organization, form unknown
(2) ☐ a corporation
(3) ☐ an unincorporated entity (describe):
(4) ☐ a public entity (describe):
(5) ☐ other (specify):
- d. ☐ except defendant (name):
- (1) ☐ a business organization, form unknown
(2) ☐ a corporation
(3) ☐ an unincorporated entity (describe):
(4) ☐ a public entity (describe):
(5) ☐ other (specify):
- ☐ Information about additional defendants who are not natural persons is contained in Attachment 5.
6. The true names of defendants sued as Does are unknown to plaintiff.
- a. ☐ Doe defendants (specify Doe numbers): _____ were the agents or employees of other named defendants and acted within the scope of that agency or employment.
- b. ☒ Doe defendants (specify Doe numbers): DOES 1-10 are persons whose capacities are unknown to plaintiff.
7. ☐ Defendants who are joined under Code of Civil Procedure section 382 are (names):
8. This court is the proper court because
- a. ☐ at least one defendant now resides in its jurisdictional area.
b. ☒ the principal place of business of a defendant corporation or unincorporated association is in its jurisdictional area.
c. ☐ Injury to person or damage to personal property occurred in its jurisdictional area.
d. ☐ other (specify):
9. ☐ Plaintiff is required to comply with a claims statute, and
- a. ☐ has complied with applicable claims statutes, or
b. ☐ is excused from complying because (specify):

PLD-PI-001

SHORT TITLE: Abonce v. Bridgestone/Firestone Inc.

CASE NUMBER:

10. The following causes of action are attached and the statements above apply to each (each complaint must have one or more causes of action attached):

- a. ☐ Motor Vehicle
- b. ☐ General Negligence
- c. ☐ Intentional Tort
- d. ☒ Products Liability
- e. ☐ Premises Liability
- f. ☐ Other (specify):

11. Plaintiff has suffered

- a. ☒ wage loss
- b. ☐ loss of use of property
- c. ☒ hospital and medical expenses
- d. ☒ general damage
- e. ☐ property damage
- f. ☒ loss of earning capacity
- g. ☐ other damage (specify):

12. ☐ The damages claimed for wrongful death and the relationships of plaintiff to the deceased are

- a. ☐ listed in Attachment 12.
- b. ☐ as follows:

13. The relief sought in this complaint is within the jurisdiction of this court.

14. Plaintiff prays for judgment for costs of suit; for such relief as is fair, just, and equitable; and for

- a. (1) ☒ compensatory damages
- (2) ☐ punitive damages

The amount of damages is (in cases for personal injury or wrongful death, you must check (1)):

- (1) ☒ according to proof
- (2) ☐ in the amount of: \$

15. ☐ The paragraphs of this complaint alleged on information and belief are as follows (specify paragraph numbers):

Date: 10/4/07

Neil P. Berman

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



(SIGNATURE OF PLAINTIFF OR ATTORNEY)

SHORT TITLE: Abonce v. Shin Caterpillar Mitsubishi

PLD-PI-001(5)

CASE NUMBER:

One CAUSE OF ACTION—Products Liability
(number)

Page 4

ATTACHMENT TO ☒ Complaint ☐ Cross-Complaint
(Use a separate cause of action form for each cause of action.)

Plaintiff (name): Jaime Abonce

Prod. L-1. On or about (date): 10/13/05

plaintiff was injured by the following product:

Multi-piece split-rim wheel

Prod. L-2. Each of the defendants knew the product would be purchased and used without inspection for defects. The product was defective when it left the control of each defendant. The product at the time of injury was being

☒ used in the manner intended by the defendants.☒ used in a manner that was reasonably foreseeable by defendants as involving a substantial danger not readily apparent. Adequate warnings of the danger were not given.

Prod. L-3. Plaintiff was a

☐ purchaser of the product.☒ user of the product.☐ bystander to the use of the product.☐ other (specify):

PLAINTIFF'S INJURY WAS THE LEGAL (PROXIMATE) RESULT OF THE FOLLOWING:

Prod. L-4. ☒ Count One—Strict liability of the following defendants whoa. ☒ manufactured or assembled the product (names): Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.☒ Does 1 to 10b. ☒ designed and manufactured component parts supplied to the manufacturer (names):
Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.☒ Does 1 to 10c. ☒ sold the product to the public (names): Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.☒ Does 1 to 10Prod. L-5. ☒ Count Two—Negligence of the following defendants who owed a duty to plaintiff (names):
Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.☒ Does 1 to 10Prod. L-6. ☐ Count Three—Breach of warranty by the following defendants (names):☐ Does toa. ☐ who breached an implied warrantyb. ☐ who breached an express warranty which was☐ written ☐ oralProd. L-7. ☐ The defendants who are liable to plaintiffs for other reasons and the reasons for the liability are☐ listed in Attachment-Prod. L-7 ☐ as follows:

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF MONTEREY		Reserved for Clerk's File Stamp
Abonce, Jaime Plaintiff/Petitioner vs. Bridgestone/ Firestone, Inc Defendant/Respondent		FILED OCT 05 2007 LISA M. GALDOS CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT C. WILLIAMS DEPUTY
CASE MANAGEMENT NOTICE		Case No. M86895

Case Management Conference Date: April 3, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

1. NOTICE is hereby given that a CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT shall be filed with the Court and served on all parties NO LATER than: 30 days before the above date of the initial CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.
2. No party may stipulate to extend any of the dates set above.
3. At the CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, it is expected that trial counsel for each party and each self-represented party shall attend and be fully prepared to participate effectively in the conference.
4. On receipt of the CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT and at or before the CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE the Court may make the following orders:
 - a. refer the matter to arbitration, the court-directed mediation program, or other alternative dispute resolution procedures;
 - b. identify the case as one which may be protracted and in need of special attention;
 - c. assign the case to a particular judge for all purposes;
 - d. assign a mandatory settlement conference and trial date;
 - e. make orders establishing discovery schedules and cut-offs, including expert witness disclosure and discovery;
 - f. make appropriate Trial Management Orders; and/or
 - g. make any other orders to achieve the interests of justice and the timely disposition of the case, including the setting of additional Status Conferences.
5. It is the policy of this Court that all complaints and cross-complaints be filed and served, all challenges to the pleadings be heard, and the matter be at-issue no later than 180 days from the filing of the complaint. It is the policy of this Court that all civil matters be resolved in no more than 12 to 24 months of the filing of the complaint.
6. Failure to file the CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT, attend the CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE and participate effectively, or comply with any CASE AND TRIAL MANAGEMENT RULES may result in sanction.
7. It is the responsibility of the parties and/or their attorneys to be familiar with the Monterey County Case and Trial Management Policies and Rules and to comply therewith.

BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE

Date: October 5, 2007

By: C. WILLIAMS

Alternative Dispute Resolution

OPTIONS FOR RESOLVING YOUR DISPUTE

There Are Alternatives to Going to Trial

Did you know that 95 percent of all civil cases filed in court are resolved without going to trial? Many people use processes other than trial to resolve their disputes. These alternative processes, known as Alternative Dispute Resolution or ADR, are typically less formal and adversarial than trial, and many use a problem-solving approach to help the parties reach agreement.

Advantages of ADR

Here are some potential advantages of using ADR:

- **Save Time:** A dispute often can be settled or decided much sooner with ADR; often in a matter of months, even weeks, while bringing a lawsuit to trial can take a year or more.
- **Save Money:** When cases are resolved earlier through ADR, the parties may save some of the money they would have spent on attorney fees, court costs, and expert's fees.
- **Increase Control over the Process and the Outcome:** In ADR, parties typically play a greater role in shaping both the process and its outcome. In most ADR processes, parties have more opportunity to tell their side of the story than they do at trial. Some ADR processes, such as mediation, allow the parties to fashion creative resolutions that are not available in a trial. Other ADR processes, such as arbitration, allow the parties to choose an expert in a particular field to decide the dispute.
- **Preserve Relationships:** ADR can be a less adversarial and hostile way to resolve a dispute. For example, an experienced mediator can help the parties effectively communicate their needs and point of view to the other side. This can be an important advantage where the parties have a relationship to preserve.
- **Increase Satisfaction:** In a trial, there is typically a winner and a loser. The loser is not likely to be happy, and even the winner may not be completely satisfied with the outcome. ADR can help the parties find win-win solutions and achieve their real goals. This, along with all of ADR's other potential advantages, may increase the parties' overall satisfaction with both the dispute resolution process and the outcome.
- **Improve Attorney-Client Relationships:** Attorneys may also benefit from ADR by being seen as problem-solvers rather than combatants. Quick, cost-effective, and satisfying resolutions are likely to produce happier clients and thus generate repeat business from clients and referrals of their friends and associates.

Because of these potential advantages, it is worth considering using ADR early in a lawsuit or even before you file a lawsuit.

What Are the ADR Options?

The most commonly used ADR processes are mediation, arbitration, neutral evaluation, and settlement conferences.

Mediation

In mediation, an impartial person called a "mediator" helps the parties try to reach a mutually acceptable resolution of the dispute. The mediator does not decide the dispute but helps the parties communicate so they can try to settle the dispute themselves. Mediation leaves control of the outcome with the parties. The Monterey County Superior Court offers a Court-Directed Mediation Program.

Cases for Which Mediation May Be Appropriate: Mediation may be particularly useful when parties have a relationship they want to preserve. So when family members, neighbors, or business partners have a dispute, mediation may be the ADR process to use.

Mediation is also effective when emotions are getting in the way of resolution. An effective mediator can hear the parties out and help them communicate with each other in an effective and nondestructive manner.

Cases for Which Mediation May Not Be Appropriate: Mediation may not be effective if one of the parties is unwilling to cooperate or compromise. Mediation also may not be effective if one of the parties has a significant advantage in power over the other. Therefore, it may not be a good choice if the parties have a history of abuse or victimization.

Arbitration

In arbitration, a neutral person called an "arbitrator" hears arguments and evidence from each side and then decides the outcome of the dispute. Arbitration is less formal than a trial, and the rules of evidence are often relaxed.

Arbitration may be either "binding" or "nonbinding." *Binding arbitration* means that the parties waive their right to a trial and agree to accept the arbitrator's decision as final. Generally, there is no right to appeal an arbitrator's decision in binding arbitration. *Nonbinding arbitration* means that the parties are free to request a trial if they do not accept the arbitrator's decision. The Monterey County Superior Court offers a nonbinding judicial arbitration program.

Cases for Which Arbitration May Be Appropriate: Arbitration is best for cases where the parties want another person to decide the outcome of their dispute for them but would like to avoid the formality, time, and expense of a trial. It may also be appropriate for complex matters where the parties want a decision-maker who has training or experience in the subject matter of the dispute.

Cases for Which Arbitration May Not Be Appropriate: If parties want to retain control over how their dispute is resolved, arbitration, particularly binding arbitration, is not appropriate. In binding arbitration, the parties generally cannot appeal the arbitrator's award, even if it is not supported by the evidence or the law. Even in nonbinding arbitration, if a party requests a trial and does not receive a more favorable result at trial than in arbitration, there may be penalties.

Neutral Evaluation

In neutral evaluation, each party gets a chance to present the case to a neutral person called an "evaluator." The evaluator then gives an opinion on the strengths and weaknesses of each party's evidence and arguments and about how the dispute could be resolved. The evaluator is often an expert in the subject matter of the dispute. Although the evaluator's opinion is nonbinding, the parties typically use it as a basis for trying to negotiate a resolution of the dispute.

Cases for Which Neutral Evaluation May Be Appropriate: Neutral evaluation may be most appropriate in cases in which there are technical issues that require expertise to resolve or the only significant issue in the case is the amount of damages.

Cases for Which Neutral Evaluation May Not Be Appropriate: Neutral evaluation may not be appropriate when there are significant personal or emotional barriers to resolving the dispute.

Settlement Conference

Settlement conferences may be either mandatory or voluntary. In both types of settlement conferences, the parties and their attorneys meet with a judge or neutral person called a "settlement officer" to discuss possible settlement of their dispute. The judge or settlement officer does not make a decision in the case but assists the parties in evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the case and in negotiating a settlement. Settlement conferences are appropriate in any case where settlement is an option. Mandatory settlement conferences are often held close to the date a case is set for trial.

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State bar number, and address):		
TELEPHONE NO.:	FAX NO. (Optional)	
EMAIL ADDRESS (Optional):		
ATTORNEY FOR (Name):		
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF MONTEREY		
MAILING ADDRESS: 1200 Aguajito Road		
CITY AND ZIP CODE: Monterey, CA 93940		
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER:		
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT:		
Request to Vacate or Continue Initial Case Management Conference and Order		Case Number:
A CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE is scheduled as follows:		
Date:	Time:	Dept.: Div.: Room:

- ▶ IF APPLICABLE, THIS REQUEST AND ORDER MUST BE FILED CONCURRENTLY WITH THE CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENTS, WHICH ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS BEFORE THE INITIAL CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.
- ▶ PER LOCAL RULE 6.08(g), IF THE PARTIES DO NOT RECEIVE A SIGNED COPY OF THE ORDER GRANTING THE REQUEST, THEY MUST ATTEND THE CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.

Counsel and the parties certify that the initial Case Management Conference should be vacated or continued for the following reasons [circle one]:

1. All parties have appeared and agree to engage in the below ADR program [check one]:

- ☐ Court-Directed mediation
 ☐ Private mediation
 ☐ Nonbinding judicial arbitration
 ☐ Private arbitration
 ☐ Other:

THE

PARTIES AGREE TO COMPLETE THE ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE FILING OF THIS FORM. Further Case Management Conference is requested

- Case is concluded and judgment or dismissal has been entered as to all parties.
- Case has settled; dismissal shall be filed on or before _____.
- Case is at-issue and all parties agree that matter may be set for trial without the necessity of a Case Management Conference.
- All defendants have not been served and the plaintiff has been granted an extension by the court until _____ to complete service on all defendants. Further Case Management Conference is requested.
- A defendant has filed bankruptcy; case should be stayed pending the completion of bankruptcy. Plaintiff shall file a Supplemental Case Management Statement within ten (10) days of any action by the debtor or the Bankruptcy Court that would act as a lifting of said stay.
- Case has been removed to Federal Court. Plaintiff shall file a Supplemental Case Management Statement within ten (10) days of any remand back to Superior Court or of any judgment or dismissal filed in the Federal Court.

**Request to Vacate or Continue Initial
Case Management Conference and Order**

Case Number: _____

8. Plaintiff has obtained a default as to all defendants and will perfect the default by entry of court or clerk judgment in timely manner. Further Case Management Conference is requested.
9. All defendants have appeared and discovery is proceeding in a timely manner. For reasons set forth in the parties' Case Management Statements, the case should be designated (circle one) Category I, Category II or Category III. Parties anticipate case will be ready to set for trial as of _____. Further Case Management Conference is requested.
10. Other: _____

_____.

Further Case Management Conference is requested.

Counsel for Plaintiff (print name)

Signature

Counsel for Plaintiff (print name)

Signature

Counsel for Defendant (print name)

Signature

Counsel for Defendant (print name)

Signature

For additional parties, attach additional signature pages as needed.

Good Cause appearing, **IT IS SO ORDERED** that the Case Management Conference set for _____ is vacated.

☐ Supplemental Case Management Statements shall be filed as set forth in 6 or 7 above.

☐ Receipt of Dismissal is set for _____.

☐ Further Case Management Conference is set for _____.
Parties shall file Case Management Statements prior to said hearing per Local Rule 6.08(e).

PLAINTIFF MUST SERVE A COPY OF THIS ORDER ON ALL PARTIES.

Dated: _____

Judge of the Superior Court